



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,925	06/24/2003	Basil Treppa	59864.00842	4336
32294	7590	02/06/2007	EXAMINER	
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.			MABINI, MARVIN	
14TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
8000 TOWERS CRESCENT			2153	
TYSONS CORNER, VA 22182				
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/06/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/603,925	TREPPA ET AL.
	Examiner Marvin Mabini	Art Unit 2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20,22-25 and 27-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20,22-25 and 27-29 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to Applicant's arguments/remarks filed on November 20, 2006. Claims 1-20, 22-25 and 27-29 are pending. Claims 1-3, 9, 14, 16, 18-20 and 22-24 are amended, claims 21 and 26 are canceled and new claims 27-29 are added. Therefore, the objection for claim 14 is withdrawn. In addition, the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection for claims 18-23 is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicants arguments filed November 20, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The previous rejection for the original claims is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last Office action mailed June 24, 2006.

3. First, applicant states that US Patent Application Publication 2003/0214525 to Esfahany does not disclose "determine if the NM operations on the computer were applied correctly, and if not, roll back to a successful configuration" as recited in Applicant's arguments/remarks page 9, however, Esfahany on paragraph 37 states "reestablishing a lost state". In order for the system to be in a lost state, it is determined that the operations were not applied correctly for the system to be in the "lost state". Esfahany further states the limitations on determinations if the operations were applied on page 8 paragraph 61.

Second, applicant states that US Patent Application Publication 2003/0214525 to Esfahany does not disclose "aggregating data relating to the devices within the cluster on a single device within the cluster" as recited in Applicant's arguments/remarks page 9. On paragraphs 7 and 37 of Esfahany, the system is embodied on a single device, and the device is connected to the clusters. The device being connected to the clusters is interpreted as being within the cluster.

Third, applicant states that US Patent Application Publication 2002/0152305 to Jackson describes simple identification and does not disclose "message authentication code that acts as a shared secret within the cluster". Jackson teaches the claimed limitation as recited in claim 8 in paragraph 160. Applicant states "identifies the message" in claim 8, therefore Jackson teaches identification in paragraph 160. The "code acts as a shared secret within the cluster" is shown in Jackson paragraph 160 since it includes in the message header a qualifier field, which is used for authentication. The clusters uses an internal protocol (Jackson paragraph 160) therefore, the code is a shared secret within the cluster. Please note that Jackson teaches secure control to regulate the data on paragraph 159. Therefore an authentication of the code is present since the system does a secure exchange as recited in paragraph 159 and 400.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-4, 6, 9,11-14,17,18,20,23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Publication 2003/0214525 to Esfahany (hereinafter "Esfahany").

As per claim 1,

Esfahany discloses a system for cluster management (see Esfahany abstract) that allows the configuration and monitoring (see Esfahany abstract) of a cluster from a single-point (see block 1000 figure 5 Esfahany), comprising:

- a network interface configured to communicate with nodes in the cluster (see network interface block 112 figure 1 Esfahany);
- a memory configured to store information relating to cluster management (see memory block 104 Figure 1 Esfahany);
- a configuration subsystem coupled to a remote management broker (see figure 4 block 402 Esfahany, also see cluster detector and cluster supervisor- Esfahany paragraph 37), wherein the remote management

broker is configured to distribute information between the nodes in the cluster (see block 400 figure 4, also see interacting with heterogeneous cluster - Esfahany paragraph 37);

- a processor configured to perform actions (see processor block 102 figure 1, also see processor - Esfahany paragraph 23), including:
 - access the cluster from the single-point (see access to cluster manager - Esfahany paragraph 62);
 - obtain information relating to devices within the cluster (see access a cluster - Esfahany paragraph 62);
 - present the information to a user (see interface - Esfahany paragraph 63); and
 - determine network management (NM) operations to perform to the cluster (see identifying cluster related objects - Esfahany paragraph 63);
 - perform the determined NM operations (see invoking a process - Esfahany paragraph 64); and
 - determine if the NM operations on the cluster were applied correctly, and if not, rolling back to a successful configuration (see reestablishing a lost state - Esfahany paragraph 37).

As per claim 2,

Esfahany discloses the processor is configured to provide a command line interface configured to access the cluster (see command set - Esfahany paragraph 41).

As per claim 3,

Esfahany discloses the processor is configured to provide a graphical user interface that is configured to access the cluster (see graphical user interface - Esfahany paragraph 9).

As per claim 4,

Esfahany discloses an aggregator configured to aggregate data relating to the devices within the cluster (see cluster supervisor can collect data from one or more clusters - Esfahany paragraph 7 and 37).

As per claim 6,

Esfahany discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the RMB is further configured to collect attributes from the Configuration Subsystem (see received data values from cluster manager – Esfahany paragraph 62).

As per claim 9,

Esfahany discloses a method for providing cluster management that allows the configuration and monitoring (see Esfahany abstract) of a cluster from a single-point (see block 1000 figure 5 Esfahany), comprising:

- accessing the cluster from the single-point (see block 1000 figure 5 Esfahany);
- obtaining attributes relating to devices within the cluster (see received data values from cluster manager – Esfahany paragraph 62);
- receiving input from a user relating to the attributes (see API provide data values to the cluster manager – see Esfahany paragraph 62);
- determining network management (NM) operations to perform on the cluster based on the received input (see identifying cluster related objects - Esfahany paragraph 63);
- performing the determined NM operations on the cluster (see invoking a process - Esfahany paragraph 64); and
- determining if the NM operations on the cluster were applied correctly, and if not, rolling back to a successful configuration (see reestablishing a lost state - Esfahany paragraph 37).

As per claim 11,

Esfahany discloses the single-point is selected from a command line interface (see command set - Esfahany paragraph 41) and a graphical user interface (see graphical user interface - Esfahany paragraph 9).

As per claim 12,

Esfahany discloses distributing information between the nodes in the cluster using a remote management broker (see block 400 figure 4, also see interacting with heterogeneous cluster - Esfahany paragraph 37).

As per claim 13,

Esfahany discloses performing the determined NM operations on the cluster further comprise distributing the NM operations to each of the devices (see identifying cluster related objects - Esfahany paragraph 63, also see invoking a process and sending commands to cluster- Esfahany paragraph 64).

As per claim 14,

Esfahany discloses determining if the NM operations on the cluster were performed correctly, and if not, rolling back to a successful configuration (see reestablishing a lost state - Esfahany paragraph 37).

As per claim 17,

Esfahany discloses aggregating data relating to the devices within the cluster on a single device within the cluster (see cluster supervisor can collect data from one or more clusters - Esfahany paragraph 7 and 37).

As per claim 18,

Esfahany discloses a computer readable storage medium comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform (see Esfahany abstract):

- obtaining attributes relating to devices (see cluster supervisor collect data from clusters - Esfahany paragraph 37) within a cluster from a single-point (see block 1000 figure 5 Esfahany);
- receiving input relating to the attributes (see received data values from cluster manager – Esfahany paragraph 62);
- determining network management (NM) operations to perform on the cluster based on the received input (see identifying cluster related objects - Esfahany paragraph 63);
- distributing the NM operations to the devices within the (see identifying cluster related objects - Esfahany paragraph 63, also see sending commands to cluster- Esfahany paragraph 64);
- applying the NM operations (see invoking a process and control data - Esfahany paragraph 64);
- determining if the NM operations on the cluster were applied correctly, and if not, rolling back to a successful configuration (see reestablishing a lost state - Esfahany paragraph 37).

As per claim 20,

Esfahany discloses receiving the input further comprises utilizing a command line interface (see command set - Esfahany paragraph 41) and a graphical user interface (see graphical user interface - Esfahany paragraph 9).

As per claim 23,

Esfahany discloses aggregating data relating to the devices within the cluster on a single device within the cluster (see cluster supervisor can collect data from one or more clusters - Esfahany paragraph 7 and 37).

As per claim 24,

Esfahany discloses an apparatus for cluster management (see Esfahany abstract), comprising:

- means for obtaining attributes relating to devices within a cluster (see cluster supervisor collect data from clusters - Esfahany paragraph 37) from a single-point (see block 1000 figure 5 Esfahany);
- means for receiving input relating to the attributes (see received data values from cluster manager – Esfahany paragraph 62);
- means for determining network management (NM) operations to perform on the cluster based on the received input (see identifying cluster related objects - Esfahany paragraph 63);

- means for distributing the NM operations to the devices within the cluster (see identifying cluster related objects - Esfahany paragraph 63, also see sending commands to cluster- Esfahany paragraph 64);
- means for applying the NM operations to the devices within the cluster (see invoking a process and control data - Esfahany paragraph 64);
- means for determining if the NM operations on the cluster were applied correctly, and if not, rolling back to a successful configuration (see reestablishing a lost state - Esfahany paragraph 37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 5, 7-8,10, 15-16,19,22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Publication 2003/0214525 to Esfahany (hereinafter "Esfahany") in view of 2002/0152305 to Jackson et al. (hereinafter "Jackson").

As per claim 5,

Esfahany discloses all the limitations of claim 5 (see 102 rejection above of claim 1 from which claim 5 depends)

Esfahany does not disclose expressly the RMB further comprises: a secure transport configured to transport messages; an RMB server coupled to the secure transport; and an RMB client coupled to the secure transport.

Jackson teaches the RMB further comprises: a secure transport configured to transport messages (see secure port - Jackson paragraph 130); an RMB server coupled to the secure transport; and an RMB client coupled to the secure transport (see management utilize secure port - Jackson paragraph 130).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Esfahany with a secure transport configured to transport messages an RMB server coupled to the secure transport; and an RMB client coupled to the secure transport as taught by Jackson. The motivation for adding a secure transport configured to transport messages; an RMB server coupled to the secure transport; and an RMB client coupled to the secure transport would have been to provide an interconnect such that information or content delivery will be protected or secured (see Jackson paragraph 130). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Esfahany and Jackson to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

As per claims 7 and 8.

Esfahany discloses all the limitations of claim 7 and 8 (see 102 rejection above of claim 1 from which claims 7 and 8 depends)

With respect to claim 7,

Esfahany does not disclose expressly the messages include a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages.

Jackson teaches the messages include a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages (see message header to interpret and process message - Jackson paragraph 160).

With respect to claim 8,

Esfahany does not disclose expressly the header includes a message authentication code that acts as a shared secret within the cluster and a magic field that identifies the message as a remote management broker message.

Jackson teaches the header includes a message authentication code that acts as a shared secret within the cluster (see message header and specific functional entities have their own message classes - Jackson paragraph 160) and a magic field (fields of message head include qualifier fields - Jackson paragraph 160) that identifies the message as a remote management broker message (see management and control using the messaging capabilities - Jackson paragraph 160).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the messages of Esfahany with a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages; the header includes a message authentication code that acts as a shared secret within the cluster and a magic field that identifies the message as a remote management broker message as taught by Jackson.

With respect to claim 7, the motivation to add messages to include a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages to Esfahany would be so that the

messages be interpreted and process efficiently and intelligently (Jackson paragraph 160).

With respect to claim 8, the motivation to add that the header includes a message authentication code that acts as a shared secret within the cluster and a magic field that identifies the message as a remote management broker message to Esfahany, would be so that overall system performance be improved by speeding the communication of messages (Jackson paragraph 161).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Esfahany and Jackson to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 8.

As per claims 10 and 16,

Esfahany discloses all the limitations of claims 10 and 16 (see 102 rejection above of claim 9 from which claims 10 and 16 depends).

With respect to claim 10,

Esfahany does not disclose applying a configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster.

Jackson teaches applying a configuration lock (see poll system – Jackson paragraph 260) that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster (see determining if resources are available and rejecting request if necessary resources are reserved - Jackson paragraph 260).

With respect to claim 16,

Esfahany does not disclose applying a configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time and releasing the configuration lock after the NM operations are performed.

Jackson teaches applying a configuration lock (see poll system – Jackson paragraph 260) that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster (see determining if resources are available and rejecting request if necessary resources are reserved - Jackson paragraph 260) during a predetermined time (the statement “request is subsequently processed” is interpreted as a lock is performed for predetermined amount of time in Jackson paragraph 260); and releasing the configuration lock (see poll system – Jackson paragraph 260) after the NM operations are performed (see determining if resources are available and request is subsequently processed - Jackson paragraph 260).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in to modify the system of Esfahany with a configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster; and releasing the configuration lock after the NM operations are performed as taught by Jackson.

With respect to claim 10, the motivation to add applying a configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster to Esfahany would be to reduce conflicts when necessary are resources are in use (Jackson paragraph 260).

With respect to claim 16, the motivation to add releasing the configuration lock after the NM operations are performed would be so that resources can be effectively utilized when the needed resources are available.

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Esfahany and Jackson to obtain the invention as specified in claims 10 and 16.

As per claim 15,

Esfahany discloses all the limitations of claim 15 (see 102 rejection above of claim 9 from which claim 15 depends).

Esfahany does not disclose utilizing a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages.

Jackson teaches utilizing a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages (see message header to interpret and process message - Jackson paragraph 160).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art modify the system of Esfahany with utilizing a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages as taught by Jackson. The motivation to add utilizing a header, which is configured to authenticate the messages to Esfahany, would be so that the messages be interpreted and process efficiently and intelligently (Jackson paragraph 160).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Esfahany and Jackson to obtain the invention as specified in claim 15.

As per claim 19,

Esfahany discloses all the limitations of claim 19 (see 102 rejection above of claim 18 from which claim 19 depends).

Esfahany does not disclose applying a configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time.

Jackson teaches applying a configuration lock (see poll system – Jackson paragraph 260) that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time (see determining if resources are available to process request and rejecting request if not, else the necessary resources are reserved and the request is subsequently processed. - Jackson paragraph 260). The statement "request is subsequently processed" is interpreted as a lock is performed for predetermined amount of time.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Esfahany with configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time as taught by Jackson. The motivation to add configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time would be to reduce conflicts when necessary are resources are in use and to perform the NM operations without delay when the predetermined time has passed (Jackson paragraph

260). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Esfahany and Jackson to obtain the invention as specified in claim 19.

As per claim 22,

Esfahany discloses all the limitations of claim 22 (see 102 rejection above of claim 18 from which claim 22 depends).

Esfahany does not disclose providing a header, which is configured to help in authenticating the messages.

Jackson teaches providing a header, which is configured to help in authenticating the messages (see message header to interpret and process message - Jackson paragraph 160).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Esfahany with a header, which is configured to help in authenticating the messages as taught by Jackson. The motivation to add providing a header which is configured to help in authenticating the messages to Esfahany, would be so that the messages be interpreted and process efficiently and intelligently (Jackson paragraph 160).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Esfahany and Jackson to obtain the invention as specified in claim 22.

As per claim 25,

Esfahany discloses all the limitations of claim 25 (see 102 rejection above of claim 24 from which claim 25 depends).

Esfahany does not disclose applying a configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time.

Jackson teaches applying a configuration lock (see poll system – Jackson paragraph 260) that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time (see determining if resources are available to process request and rejecting request if not, else the necessary resources are reserved and the request is subsequently processed.

- Jackson paragraph 260). The statement "request is subsequently processed" is interpreted as a lock is performed for predetermined amount of time.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Esfahany with a configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time as taught by Jackson. The motivation to add configuration lock that is intended to prevent other applications from performing NM operations on the devices within the cluster during a predetermined time would be to reduce conflicts when necessary are resources are in use and to perform the NM operations without delay when the predetermined time has passed (Jackson paragraph 260). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Esfahany and Jackson to obtain the invention as specified in claim 25.

8. Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Publication 2003/0214525 to Esfahany (hereinafter "Esfahany") in view of 2002/0152305 to Jackson et al. (hereinafter "Jackson") in further view of US Patent 5615264 to Kazmierczak et al (hereinafter "Kazmierczak").

As per claim 27, Esfahany-Jackson discloses all the limitations of the parent claim from which claim 27 depend (see above rejection for claim 8).

Esfahany-Jackson does not disclose expressly, the message authentication code is calculated from contents of the message and from a shared secret value that is known to the devices within the cluster.

The concept of message authentication code is well known in the art as illustrated by Kazmierczak which teaches the message authentication code is calculated from contents of the message and from a shared secret value that is known to the devices within the cluster (see message authentication code and calculation – Kazmierczak column 6 lines 50-61).

Esfahany-Jackson and Kazmierczak are analogous art because they are from similar problem solving area which is to authenticate contents of messages based on the header. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Esfahany-Jackson with the teaching of

Kazmierczak. The motivation would be to prevent unauthorized messages from going into the cluster since the calculation of the MAC creates a secure header packet.

As per claim 28, Esfahany-Jackson discloses all the limitations of the parent claim from which claim 28 depend (see above rejection for claim 15).

Esfahany-Jackson does not disclose expressly, the header comprises a message authentication code that is calculated from contents of the message and from a shared secret value that is known to the devices within the cluster.

The concept of message authentication code is well known in the art as illustrated by Kazmierczak which teaches the header comprises a message authentication code that is calculated from contents of the message and from a shared secret value that is known to the devices within the cluster (see message authentication code and calculation – Kazmierczak column 6 lines 50-61).

Esfahany-Jackson and Kazmierczak are analogous art because they are from similar problem solving area which is to authenticate contents of messages based on the header. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Esfahany-Jackson with the teaching of Kazmierczak. The motivation would be to prevent unauthorized messages from going into the cluster since the calculation of the MAC creates a secure header packet.

As per claim 29, Esfahany-Jackson discloses all the limitations of the parent claim from which claim 29 depend (see above rejection for claim 22).

Esfahany-Jackson does not disclose expressly, the header comprises a message authentication code that is calculated from contents of the message and from a shared secret value that is known to the devices within the cluster.

The concept of message authentication code is well known in the art as illustrated by Kazmierczak which teaches the header comprises a message authentication code that is calculated from contents of the message and from a shared secret value that is known to the devices within the cluster (see message authentication code and calculation – Kazmierczak column 6 lines 50-61).

Esfahany-Jackson and Kazmierczak are analogous art because they are from similar problem solving area which is to authenticate contents of messages based on the header. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Esfahany-Jackson with the teaching of Kazmierczak. The motivation would be to prevent unauthorized messages from going into the cluster since the calculation of the MAC creates a secure header packet.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marvin Mabini whose telephone number is 571-270-1142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MM/



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER